



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).



A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY. BY SIR EDWIN LANDSEER

## The Newfoundland Dog

BY T. C. TURNER

**I**T is well known to those who have interested themselves in the canine race, that all dogs possess faculties approaching human ones in varied degrees. In fact, it is seldom that one comes across a specimen of any of the breeds that might be classed as dumb or stupid; but for devotion and intelligence, that "friend of his master," as the Newfoundland is sometimes styled, has few, if any equals. Stories are told of him, which, were they not substantiated by reliable evidence, would scarcely be credited.

Like all breeds of dogs the Newfound-

land has peculiarities. He is devoted, but only where he becomes attached of his own free will. Contrary to the trait of some dogs, his devotion cannot be bought. I do not wish to have it inferred from this that he is ungrateful for kindnesses bestowed upon him by those to whom he does not take a natural fancy, but one cannot win his affection by artifice.

Among his many qualities, the Newfoundland dog is possessed of remarkable memory, and is a particularly good watch-dog, especially so at night, when, apparently he sleeps with "both ears

open." Some years ago, I owned one of the smaller, or St. Johns type. He was given free run of the house at night, his resting place was always at one spot, in the lower hall, and any intruder who might have crossed the threshold or window after the family had retired, would have departed with a bitter memory of that house, if indeed, he had been so fortunate as to have departed at all. Yet this dog was a perfect baby in disposition when not "on duty." Let me not suggest that these animals are vicious; they are by no means quarrelsome, and their conduct with small dogs shows that they treat them with a great degree of patience, in fact almost with indifference.

The well-known partiality of the Newfoundland dog for the water is one of his strong points. In the sea or in fresh water he seems in his proper element. The essential services which he has so often been known to render to humanity no doubt prompted Sir Edwin Landseer to paint, *A Distinguished Member of the Royal Humane Society*, a picture which has been famous the world over.

In their native land Newfoundland dogs are employed more or less as beasts of draught, as well as watch-dogs. Their great power as swimmers at sea has made them famous life savers on many a coast. One of the very good reasons (over and above their strength) for their skill in the water, is the peculiar formation of their feet. It is little trouble to train these dogs to rescue drowning persons, but such a dog when trained must be kept away from bathers, or, in his over anxiety to perform what he considers his perennial duty, he is apt to upset things.

The average dog in his native land does not go above twenty-five inches, but there is evidence that careful breeding and careful feeding will induce increased size, for the English fanciers invariably produce larger dogs from native stock than the natives are in the habit of obtaining, perhaps climatic conditions, also help in this direction.

As a water dog, the Newfoundland naturally requires a good water resisting

coat. This he certainly has, for although he possesses but little under-coat, as compared with some breeds, he is unusually well supplied with natural oil. In Newfoundland the dog is mainly black, or of a rusty bronze black. But such was the enthusiasm of Landseer, who portrayed the dog in many of his canvases, and always as a black and white, that the fancy has maintained two varieties, the black class and the Landseer, or black and white, that remarkable artist always made us feel that his Newfoundlands would love us without selfishness, and defend us at the risk of their own lives. The Landseer dog is inclined to be taller, or, as dog men say, more on the leg than the back and there is also a slight difference in the formation of the head, the black dog of the present day being far more "domed" or rounded above the eyes, somewhat resembling the Clumber Spaniel. The smaller or St. Johns dog is particularly suited for shooting over, and may be very easily broken to the gun, naturally being of great use where retrieving from water is a point. This type is probably the foundation stock of the English retriever; at any rate he is continually used as a cross to produce the wave-coated stock.

Many stories have been written of the sagacity and intellect of the Newfound-



BLACK BOY. A TYPICAL NEWFOUNDLAND DOG

land dog. The Rev. L. Anspach in his *History of the Island of Newfoundland*, mentions one which may be quoted as an instance of the dog's faithfulness and devotion. "One of the Magistrates of Harbor-Grace, the late Mr. Garland, had an old dog, which was in the habit of carrying a lantern before his master at night, as steadily as the most attentive servant could do, stopping short when his master made a stop, and proceeding when he saw him disposed to follow him. If his master was absent from home, on the lantern being fixed to his mouth, and the command given, 'Go fetch your master,' he would immediately set off, and proceed directly to the town, which lay at the distance of more than a mile from the place of his master's residence. He would then stop at the door of every house which he knew his master was in the habit of frequenting, and, laying down his lantern, would growl and strike the door, making all the noise in his power until it was opened. If his master was not there, he would proceed further until he had found him. If he accompanied him only once into a house, it was sufficient to induce him to take that house in his rounds." In *Jesse's Anecdotes* is recorded an instance of the packet *Durham* which was being wrecked in a storm near Clay in Norfolk in 1815: "A faithful dog was employed to use his efforts to carry the lead-line on shore from the vessel, but there being a very heavy sea, and a deep beach, it appeared that the drawback of the surf was too powerful for the animal to contend with. Mr. Parker a ship-builder, of Wells, and Mr. Jackson of Clay, who were on the spot, observed this, instantly rushed into the sea, which was running very high, and succeeded, though at great risk, in catching hold of the dog, which was much exhausted, but which had all this time kept the line in his mouth. The line being thus obtained, a communication with the vessel was established and a warp passed from the ship to the shore, the lives of all on board, including two children were saved."

That the dog has retained his usefulness as a life saver at sea was proved in December 1919, when the passengers and crew of the steamer *Ethie*, which was pounding to pieces on the coast near Curling, N. F., were brought safely to shore on a life line, the lead of which was carried from the ship to the land by a Newfoundland dog, boats could not make the passage, from or to the stranded steamer and an effort to shoot the line ashore failed, among the rescued was a baby sent ashore in a mail bag.

Among the artists who have made the Newfoundland a subject, Reinagle in the *Sportsman's Repository* also portrays a black and white dog of the Landseer type. The famous wood-engraver Bewick in the *History of Quadrupeds* depicts a dog with a decidedly short coat, and a tail carried curled in the air above his back, the only picture of the breed we ever saw, of this type, the tail of the present-day dog being heavy, and curling but little above the hocks.

Among the best specimens which have been seen here are *Black Boy* who was the property of Mrs. W. T. Stern Von Gravesende; Champion *Big Boy* owned by Mr. J. A. Graydon, *Lady Norah*, the property of the same owner, and Mr. E. H. Morris' *Captain Fryatt*.

To describe the present dog briefly, he should impress one with his strength and unusual activity for his size, he should be smart on his feet and ready to go into rough seas, he should have a close coupled short neck, and a head decidedly domed, a short square nose with a fair length of muzzle, the coat should be flat and dense, of an oily nature, body well ribbed up and barrel like, the eyes should be small and very dark, ears small, fore legs straight, strong, and well feathered, hind quarters and legs should show great strength, there should be a slight roll in his gait, the tail should be of moderate length and covered with long hair, it should reach a little below the hocks, when the dog is in motion or alert it should be carried up, but never over the back.